

Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An adjustable fin system for a watercraft having a hull, said system including at least:

a fin having a base, said base having a major dimension;

a foot coupled to said base;

a fin box mountable in the hull of said watercraft, said fin box defining a cavity for receiving said foot, said cavity having an opening on a first surface of said fin box through which said foot is inserted, said opening having a major dimension ~~and said base relatively dimensioned so that when said foot is received in said cavity, said base substantially covers said opening;~~ and[[,]]

a manually operable detent mechanism for releasably holding said fin in a plurality of different positions relative to said fin box;

wherein said opening and said base are relatively dimensioned so that when said foot is received in said cavity, said major dimension of said base covers said major dimension of said opening in any of the plurality of different fin positions.

2. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein said detent mechanism includes a first engagement means on said foot; and a second engagement means in said fin box; said first and second engagement means mutually engagable in a plurality of different positions along a length of said cavity.

3. (Original) The system according to claim 2 wherein said detent mechanism includes a first pin resiliently supported on said foot and a channel formed in said fin box and extending at least in part, in a direction of the length of said fin box; wherein said first and second engagement means are mutually engaged when said first pin is in said channel, and the position of the fin is changeable relative to the fin box by resilient deflection of said first pin relative to said foot and sliding of said first pin along said channel.

4. (Original) The system according to claim 3 wherein said detent mechanism includes a resilient element which supports said first pin, said resilient element supported by said foot.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 4 wherein said resilient element is in the form of a body of resilient material disposed in a recess formed in said foot.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 4 wherein said detent mechanism includes a finger coupled at one end to said foot.

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 3 wherein said foot is provided with a second transversely extending pin, wherein said second pin and said first engagement means are respectively located near opposite ends of said foot and said first pin is intermediate of said second pin and said first engagement means.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 7 wherein said channel includes first and second portions for receiving said first and second pins respectively, wherein said first and second portions are spaced from each other in a direction transverse to the length of said fin box.

9. (Original) The system according to claim 8 wherein said fin box includes a feed channel connecting said first and second portions and extending to said opening.

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 2 wherein one of said first and second engagement means is in the form of an elongated rack and the other of said first and second engagement means is in the form of at least one tooth for engaging said rack

11. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 3 wherein one of said first and second engagement means is in the form of an elongated rack and the other of said first and second engagement means is in the form of at least one tooth for engaging said rack.

12. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 4 wherein one of said first and second engagement means is in the form of an elongated rack and the other of said first and second engagement means is in the form of at least one tooth for engaging said rack.

13. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 5 wherein one of said first and second engagement means is in the form of an elongated rack and the other of said first and second engagement means is in the form of at least one tooth for engaging said rack.

14. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 6 wherein one of said first and second engagement means is in the form of an elongated rack and the other of said first and second engagement means is in the form of at least one tooth for engaging said rack.

15. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 7 wherein one of said first and second engagement means is in the form of an elongated rack and the other of said first and second engagement means is in the form of at least one tooth for engaging said rack.

16. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 8 wherein one of said first and second engagement means is in the form of an elongated rack and the other of said first and second engagement means is in the form of at least one tooth for engaging said rack.

17. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9 wherein one of said first and second engagement means is in the form of an elongated rack and the other of said first and second engagement means is in the form of at least one tooth for engaging said rack.

18. (Currently Amended) An adjustable fin system for watercraft having a hull, comprising:

a fin terminating at one end in a foot;

a cavity positioned in or adjacent the hull, the cavity having an opening sized to receive the foot of the fin and being larger than the foot in at least one dimension to allow movement of the foot within the cavity, ~~wherein a portion of the fin extends beyond the opening to substantially close the opening to entry of water when the foot is inserted in the cavity;~~ and

a fin lock capable of being released by hand and operable to releasably lock the fin in a desired one of a plurality of positions relative to the cavity;

wherein the fin comprises an overlapping portion adjacent the foot, the overlapping portion being sized to extend beyond the opening when the foot is inserted in the cavity and the

fin is in any one of the plurality of positions, the overlapping portion thereby restricting entry of water through the opening.

19. (Previously Presented) The adjustable fin system according to claim 18 wherein the cavity is defined in the hull.

20. (Previously Presented) The adjustable fin system of claim 18 wherein the fin lock is a detent mechanism having respective portions on walls defining the cavity and the foot.